Notes on a Cruise in the Southern China Sea.

C. Boden Kloss.

In 1900 I spent about eleven weeks, including the months of August and September, cruising about with Dr. W. L. Abbott in his Schooner "Terrapin" which had just been launched. Our purpose was to make collections of mammals and birds and of any other objects zoological that might fall in our way. As the islands of the Southern China Sea amongst which the time was spent, have received either but scanty notice or none at all, the following pages may have some interest. Unfortunately for the present purpose I kept only the very baldest log of our voyage so that the account of our experiences, drawn up after an interval of three years, is far from being as satisfactory as I could wish.

I was unable to accompany the schooner when she sailed at the beginning of July so arranged to join her at Linga, and in the middle of the month therefore left Singapore in the *S. S. Malacca.*

We stopped a night at Rhio *en route* and I was thus enabled to get from the Resident a permit to travel in the Rhio-Linga Dependency in which the whole of our cruise was to take place. The town of Rhio is prettily situated and laid out, but very small and quiet; it possesses an hotel and a good fruit-market: every other one of its shops appears to be run as a pawn-broking establishment. A long walk in the surrounding country showed me nothing more inviting than clayey hills covered with bracken and the S'ndudu tree (*Melastoma polyanthum*), and everywhere dotted with Chinese tombs.

From Rhio to Linga—we called at Sinkep Island on the way with provisions for the tin mines—was, I think, four days steaming through smooth seas and green islands. The *Macassar* is an old wooden tub capable of doing about 7 knots in calm water with the wind astern. The only accommodation

she could offer was the open bridge crowded with natives, where I found room for a deck chair. Had this been all there would have been nothing to kick at, but unfortunately the vessel swarmed with a certain highly objectionable and active *Rhynchota* that spoilt all pleasure, and when I hailed with delight the appearance of the "Terrapin" lying off Tanjong Buton on the south side of Linga, I was, after four days of an inferno, in a state that I had never been in before and fervently pray never to attain again.

Linga.

Lying about mid-way between Singapore and Banka, Linga is an island of irregular shape about 33 miles in length in a north-west and south-east direction, and is surrounded by smaller islands of various sizes. Unlike its near neighbour Sinkep, it is not worked for tin, and is best known as being at one time the head quarters of the numerous pirates who used to ravage the western seas of the Malay Archipelago in the early part of last century.

The schooner had to anchor a mile or so from the land since off-shore for some distance extended banks of soft black mud through which we were compelled to wade when the tide was low while at other times the sea broke on them with some force for the roadstead is exposed to south-easterly winds. At Tanjong Buton were a few Chinese *kedais* and the house of a Dutch Assistant-Resident (now withdrawn) and from here a road had been made to the town of Linga.

The best collecting ground was on the outskirts of the village of Maruang, lying two or three miles away between the road and the sea. The surrounding country was, for the most part, a sago swamp, but in the fruit plantations of the Kampong certain birds and small mammals were numerous. The village itself consisted of a settlement of Sumatran Malays, the houses—about forty in number—built in two orderly rows with the mosque in the centre. The thousands of huge durian trees that surround it, were just then fruiting and at the little watch-houses in the plantations freshly fallen durians could be had in piles at a cent or two apiece while the few small steamers that call were constantly taking cargoes up to Singapore.

Learning from the people of the village that flocks of fruit-bats visited their fruit-trees nightly, we, one evening when there was a little moonlight, went up the plantation for the purpose of obtaining specimens.

Accompanied by half the boys of the Kampong, we took up places beneath a huge rambutan tree—the gathering point of great numbers of bats—but for a time made very poor practice at the dark bodies flitting between the branches in the dim light. Swarms of mosquitoes did not help to improve matters. At length however I hit on a plan that gave better results; choosing a large bunch of fruit that was freqently visited, I rested my gun against a convenient tree-trunk and took careful aim at it. Holding the barrels steadily in position all I had now to do was to stand up and watch the target: whenever a bat settled on that particular bunch I pressed the trigger and the shot was invariably followed by a thud on the ground or crashing and squawking among the branches as a wounded animal dropped slowly downwards. In a couple of hours the boys had picked up a dozen specimens of *Pteropus vampyrus* with which we returned to the boat, leaving sundry others to be recovered on the morrow.

On the way back a bullet was kept in readiness for wild-pig. None were seen, however, though nightly rootings along the road showed their presence in the neighbourhood.

The following day was given over to the preparation of skins and skeletons from the specimens obtained.

The 24th of July, our last day in the island, was spent in visiting Linga Kampong to bid farewell to the Sultan and to buy supplies for the voyage ahead.

The town is distant about an hour and a half from the sea and is reached by a road constructed by the Dutch Assistant-Resident. Although roughly made it is passable for the Sultan's gharry and for the few local rickshaws which, old and dilapidated, generally traverse it at a walking pace.

For the first two miles it runs though a swamp planted with sago palms, then coming out on hard clay ground is bordered with scrub and lallang until near the town it passes through plantations of various fruit-trees, sugar-cane and bananas.

Although the actual control is in the hands of the Dutch from whom he receives an income of some $80,000 a year, the Sultan of Linga is nominally ruler over neighbouring parts of Sumatra, all the islands between Sinkep and Singapore and all the various small groups in the Southern China Sea.

The town of Linga—his capital—is situated on the banks of a stream navigable by small praus at high water, about two miles from its mouth. To the north a fantastically split peak, the highest summit of the Linga group, rises to a height of 3,921 feet, densely covered with jungle and scrub and scarcely ever free from clouds.

The population of the town, Malays and Chinese, number about 6,000. All the houses are built on piles, those of the Chinese on a muddy expanse by the banks of the river which not infrequently overflows. A number of substantial brick buildings have at one time also been erected by them but are now in a ruinous condition.

The houses of the Malays, shaded by fruit trees, arecas and coco-palms were scattered about without regard to orderly arrangement. Amongst them stood the school, which was apparantly well patronised, and the Sultan's palace, a large and ugly barn-like structure of wood.

The Sultan was absent and we proceeded at once to the Chinese portion of the town to get through with our marketing.

The Chinese community is under a "Captain China" who in the Linga Sultanate is responsible to the Dutch only for the good behaviour of his charge and who collects for them the poll tax of $3 a head every year.

The bazaar was of fair size and sold the usual merchandise found in such places that includes various articles ranging from a bottle of scent to an onion. Our requirements of rice, vegetables, curry stuffs etc., were soon satisfied and from the sarong shops kept by Klings we got a few European cotton sarongs for use on board. The Malays here were apparently like the lillies of the field. "They toil not neither do they spin," and it was with difficulty that we got from them even a few eggs and chickens.

We returned to the "Terrapin" by way of the river in a canoe with a small roof of kajangs. The water was very low

and paddling between muddy banks we were unable to see anything of the country on either side. Crocodiles are said to be numerous but none were met and after crossing the bar at the river mouth, we got up sail and in short time reached the schooner.

Previous to my arrival Dr. Abbott had made an expedition to the peak. He spent eight days in a hut built at an altitude of about 1000 feet and ascended on three occasions to 3000 feet, but each time the mist was so dense that he could not proceed higher. Animal life was remarkably scarce in the mountain forest; the lotong, however, was seen occasionally and at the highest elevation reached the "house" of a pig was found. Birds were very few in number. The mountain seemed to offer most attraction to a botanist: orchids occurred in great abundance.

In order to give a complete list of the mammals known from Linga I have included here the further material obtained by Dr. Abbott during a second visit to the island in 1901. All species that were described for the first time from both collections are distinguished by the addition of sp. nov.

1. Semnopithecus maurus.
2. Macacus cynomolgus.
3. Pteropus vampyrus.
4. Tupaia tana.
5. T. malaccana.
6. Viverra tangalunga.
7. Arctogalidia simplex, sp nov.
8. Tragulus javanicus.
9. T. pretiosus, sp. nov.
10. Sus vittatus.
11. Ratufa notabilis, sp. nov.
12. Sciurus vittatus.
13. Sciurus tenuis.
14. S. notatus.
15. Rhinosciurus laticaudatus
16. Mus lingensis, sp. nov.
17. M. fremens, sp. nov.
18. M. firmus, sp. nov.

The birds of Linga show no peculiarities and do not differ from those occurring in the adjacent mainlands. The most complete collection recorded is that made by the native hunters of the late Mr. A. H. Everett. The list of species is given in "Novitates Zoologicæ."

Pulo Taya and the Nyamok Islets.

We left Linga at 2 a.m. on the morning of July 25th bound for a group of three small islands forty miles to the south-eastward. With the wind ahead all the way it was not until mid-day on the 26th that we anchored off Taya the largest of the three.

The island is fairly steep-to, of granite formation rising to a double peak about 600 feet high. It is about a mile and a half long north and south, oval in shape and covered with forest,

Landing on the east side on a sandy bay in a bight between the hills we found at the south end of the beach just within the jungle a spring of good water. Near the shore the bay was blocked up with coral over which at low tide we had to scramble. A little party of Orang Laut in their crazy praus, visiting the island for "ikan merah" for which it is well known, told us that rats, squirrels, and a "biawak" were to be got; but during the three occasions we were ashore we saw neither. The only birds obtained were the Nicobar (*Calœnas nicobarica*) and Nutmeg pigeons (*Myristicivora bicolor*), which last occurs on nearly all islands in this region: the glossy starling (*Calornis chalybeus*) with dark metallic green plumage and red irrides: a gaudy little sunbird (*Anthothreptes rhodolæma*), the Eastern reef heron (*Lepterodius sacer*), and *Halcyon chloris*, the blue-and-white kingfisher. Last and best of all was one specimen of *Columba grisea*, a bird of extreme rarity in collections.* In general appearance it is somewhat similar to the cream-and-black Nutmeg pigeon if the former colour were replaced by a pale grey.

On the Nyamok Islands about a mile north of Taya, two islets, the larger no more than two or three hundred yards in

* The British Museum Catalogue and Pigeons records a single specimen only.

diameter, we shot a blue-and-white king fisher and the reef heron.

These islets, neither of which is more than 150 feet high, are covered with thin jungle in which we saw several specimens of the Nicobar pigeon—the "burong mas" or golden bird of the Malays.

Taya was left at midday on the 28th and soon after making sail a squall from the south-west struck us. We ran before it, goosewinged with scandalised sails, the seas racing up behind and breaking in showers of spray under the counter. In the couple of hours it lasted we had made nearly twenty miles of our way to Pulo Pengiki Besar and afterwards sailing with a wind that allowed an easy course to be laid, anchor was dropped in a bay on the north side of the island at six o'clock on the evening of July 31st.

Pulo Pengiki Besar or St. Barbe Island.

Seen from a distance Pengiki appears like two or three separate islands, being lower at the centre than in the north-east and west. Its height is about 750 feet and it is covered with trees except at those places on the hill sides where large outcrops of rock occur. On such spots what vegetation exists is of a sparse and stunted type.

For some distance from the shore a reef filled up the bay where, indeed, the conditions are most favourable for the growth of corals. As one rowed over the pellucid green water, looking down they were to be seen in indescribable variety—great heads formed like massive boulders and tiny sprays no less delicate than a piece of moss. Corals of all shapes and shade were there—pink, grey, yellow, brown, blue, green, red, while among the crevices and branches swam fish as gorgeous as their surroundings—little fellows half an inch in length, blue, red, and yellow and others of larger size whose brilliancy of colouring passed almost unremarked by comparison with the grotesqueness of their forms.

In the centre of the bay and connected at low tide with the shore stood a rocky islet frequented by numbers of the white tern (*Sterna bergii*) with rose-tinted breasts from which the flush fades immediately after death.

From several small streams within the jungle good water may be obtained; they are, however, too weak to force a passage to the sea and must be looked for above the beach.

At Pengiki we spent two days but found the island, although of fair size—three miles long and nearly two wide—very scantily furnished with animal life. Pigeons both Nicobar and *bicolor*, were fairly numerous as were the glossy starling and blue-and-white kingfisher, but no other birds were seen with the exception of an eagle and a single grey wagtail. A python and viper were obtained and a glimpse was caught of a small animal in a tree that may have been a musang. Macaque monkeys (cynomolgus?) were, however, common and a new species of squirrel (*Sciurus mimiculus*), a dwarf form of *S. prevostii*, was obtained.

The jungle was of fair height but possessed scarcely any undergrowth and all day long in the cool green light, swarms of bats (*Hipposideros barbensis*, sp. nov.) flitted about circling in and out amongst the trees.

When we left—in darkness at three o'clock one morning—the anchor proved to be jammed fast in the coral. It was only by setting full sail, after all other means were exhausted, that we were enabled to break it free.

The Tambelans.

The Tambelan group, about sixty miles to the northward, was the next place of call. With a wind abeam and a squall to help we arrived in twelve hours and anchored between two small islands, Selendang and Gilla. Exploring the former in the afternoon we got two or three birds. It possesses a curious cone-shaped hill about 700 feet high; Gilla is much lower. The scenery in the little strait between the two was very lovely—jungle and coco palms, granite boulders and yellow sand, bright blue sea and waves of white surf at the far end of the passage.

Early next morning (Aug. 4th) we boated over to Great Tambelan and met many canoes going off to the outlying islands. The sea was running very high a few hours later and the sail back again was somewhat exciting.

The Tambelan group consists of the three principal islands of Tambelan, Bunoa and Wai, with a number of smaller islands

massed fairly close together over thirteen or fourteen miles of sea. Only Great Tambelan is inhabited but on the others the people have numerous *ladangs* and *pondoks*. The population consists of Malays, 500-600 in number.

Bunoa.

As Gilla and Selendang were too small to be productive, after one more visit we transferred operations to Pulo Bunoa close by. The islands form roughly two parallel lines lying N. E. and S. W. Bunoa is the largest of the south-western group. It is about four miles long and two and a half wide, on the whole gently rounded in contour with gradual forested hills rising to a height of 900 feet. On the northern side is a bay that offers good anchorage in the S. W. monsoon.

We tramped through the island for three days after birds and beasts. A form of "Krah" was common and from those collected here, and later on in the Anambas, a new species *Macacus pumilus* has been described which differs from *M. cynomolgus* in being paler and much smaller. The little pied hornbill (*Anthrococeros convexus*) was numerous: their chattering resounded through the jungle like the yelping of puppies. Once in stalking them I lost my bearings and at last crossing a slight trail followed it up on the wrong hand and passing by a little stream that suddenly disapppeared subterraneously, came on a ladder path and log-slide running down a sleep hill side to a strange beach that in the end proved to be on the further side of the island. Thinking it easier to return to the boat by following the coast than by retracing my steps, I let myself in for a five or six miles scramble in mangroves and mud, over soft sand and rocks, across coral reefs and through water breast high before I found the schooner again.

Arenga palms are numerous in the jungle and are worked for sugar by the natives. The trees are tapped near the top and bamboo receptacles are fastened beneath the incisions to receive the sap. Here and there we came across the boiling-down furnaces that consisted of large flat iron pans raised above the fire on clay walls. Before concentration the sap is carefully strained through a bunch of fibre to remove impurities and is then boiled down either to a treacly consistency or to a still

greater density when it is poured into bamboo moulds and crystallizes into a dark brown sugar.

A coconut shell of the warm sweet liquid in its early stage is most refreshing during the course of a hard tramp and was always offered when we passed a concentrator at work.

Great Tambelan.

On the 8th of August we made sail at day-break and with a native pilot crossed to Tambelan Island and anchored in the harbour three hours later.

This, the largest island of the group, is nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and roughly triangular. Near its north-east coast are several hills, the highest of which—Tambelan Peak—rises to an elevation of 1300 feet while a short distance to the eastward of it is Thumb Peak, a remarkable pointed hill 950 feet high. The island is nearly divided into two parts by an inlet of the sea which runs in a north-easterly direction into its western side. This creek is nearly a mile in width but is fringed and choked with reefs. The remains of a breakwater built of coral cross it about a mile and a half from the entrance. A stockade once ran behind this and a fort stood on the shore, all being constructed to defend the village which lies higher up, from the attacks of Illanum pirates who occasionally visited these islands years ago.

We threaded our way amongst the coral and anchored in a clear patch of water near a couple of small native schooners, well protected by reefs from any south-westerly swell and in sight of the Kampong. The conditions permitted some delightful baths in perfect safety for the Malays said crocodiles and sharks never ventured into the neighbourhood. The pilot refused money payment for his services but gladly received drugs for an ailing relative, and later when the people took to bringing us specimens they always preferred medicine of sorts by way of recompense.

We first landed on the southern side of the harbour and climbed a small hill of granite and laterite. It was covered with scanty scrub and absolutely devoid of life. A reward however lay in the view. Below the slope of the hill stretched the still green waters of the harbour, purple-patched with coral; on the further side sand, jungle and palms, while the Kampong—a

long line of brown houses on land and water, following the course of the shore—lay higher up the creek. Beyond rose the jungle and hills, with the quaintly-shaped Thumb Peak—abrupt and solitary—standing out prominently against the sky.

A white man is a bit of a curiosity in these parts and for the rest of the day it was but seldom that twenty or thirty heads were not poked through the skylight windows watching our goings-on.

Next morning we went up to the village to visit the Dato and show him a letter written by the Sultan of Linga who, under the Dutch, rules all these islands.

A roofed-in platform with benches and flight of steps forms a pleasant landing and lounging place before the village, near which was anchored a stranger vessel—a little prau about the size of our whaleboat packed with a large and unprepossessing family of Orang Laut.

From the *jambatan* we were led to the Dato. The village consists of about 250 houses threaded by tidy paths and supplied with water by numerous bamboo *penchurans* leading from the higher ground in the rear. No women were visible but from the houses came the clacking of numerous looms: good strong sarongs are made here, dyed, however, with aniline colours purchased in Singapore: indeed though Dutch possessions, the Straits dollar was the only coin current in all the islands of our cruise. Passing the mosque, a pucca triple-roofed structure of wood and stone, and a number of old cannon that lay scattered about, we reached the Dato's, a well-built shingle-roofed house, with a long enclosed verandah running its length, in which we were welcomed.

The Dato was an amiable old gentleman, treated by his people as he treated the Sultan's letter—with great respect. Chairs were arranged at one end of the room and when we took our seats the lower end was crowded by the populace while women stared through the latticed windows of the inner rooms. An official, bent double with respect, read the Sultan's hukum, which explained our object and recommended all assistance, and then the Dato and the audience descanted on the local fauna, its paucity in those islands and how much better off other places—Pahang, for instance—were in this res-

pect. On leaving, the hand-camera was brought into play for the first time and all the juveniles among our escort fled screaming.

The little community appeared to be very well off and was one of the few places remarkable for the absence of the ubiquitous Chinaman, a solitary trader of which race seemed to have been recently starved out. On the shores of the harbour twenty to thirty schooners of local construction were drawn up: these seemed to be owned by the villagers in general, and with them all the trade was done and all the produce shipped from time to time to Singapore direct.

Ship-building bulked large as an industry of the village and we saw half a dozen or more hulls from thirty to forty feet in length, in all stages of construction. These vessel are built of locally grown chengai and merbau and are fastened with tree-nails throughout. Each seemed to be the work of about a couple of men in partnership and takes two years or so to complete. A few frames are first set up and completely planked and afterwards the other ribs are fitted in until sufficient strength is attained. It was said that a 35 foot craft (10-tonner) could be purchased all complete for $350, and although perhaps their lines were capable of some improvement they were fine roomy little boats strongly built of throughly sound material. The local canoe, however, was a thing of beauty: strongly built of two prettily contrasting white and brown hardwoods without a single nail, with upward-projecting stem and stern and gaudily painted bird's-head bracket on the bow to support the lowered sail and mast, it was as workmanlike as it was handsome. The sail was a square cotton lug slung by the middle of the yard and set with the forward end of the boom snubbed down to the lee-bow well forward.

Having sent the Dato a photograph of the "Terrapin" we received a call one evening from him and his understudy to acknowledge the picture and to obtain a little medicine. Amongst other things he told us how in his boyhood the village suffered the last attack from pirates and how all the inhabitants were driven out by the raiders to a hill at the back of the island where they built a fort of refuge. In those days there were only about a hundred people on the group.

But little was to be obtained by way of supplies from the villlage. Coconuts and copra were plentiful, eggs and fowls scarce: we could get plenty of bananas and one evening bought from a canoe homeward bound from fishing, three splendid parrot fish (*Scarus sp.*), weighing together between sixty and seventy pounds for a dollar!

The jungle was intersected with paths leading to the arenga palms and trying-down sheds and by shooting along them and in the cocopalms we obtained a new squirrel (*Sciurus abbottii*), a pale form of *S. notatus*.

After investigating the birds and mammals on several occasions with good results, we devoted a morning to butterflies getting about a dozen species round the village and along the forest paths. The fauna of the island was neither numerous nor diversified and on the morning of the 15th we moved the schooner over to Pulo Wai, anchoring off its N. E. coast.

Pulo Wai.

This island is the most north-westerly of the group. It is about two miles long and rises in several peaked hills attaining near the eastern end a height of 1000 feet. Being farther from the Kampong than the others it is least visited but plantations of coconuts and bananas, plantains, yams and sweet potatoes are common on its hillsides, a good deal of which are cleared.

It provided us with a handsome squirrel (*Sciurus mimellus* sp. nov.) with black, chestnut and white pelage—a dwarf form of the well-known *S. prevostii*.

A walk across the island proved very bad travelling but from the hills a distant view was obtained of Gap Rock about twelve miles to the northeast. This remarkable islet consists solely of two huge boulders—the larger of which is 124 feet above the water—lying on a flat platform of rock utterly devoid of soil or vegetation.

This was the last of the Tambelans visited and I will therefore conclude this notice of them with a list of the principal collections.

Mammals.

1. Macacus pumilus, sp. nov.

2. Pteropus lepidus, sp. nov.
3. Megaderma spasma.
4. Tupaia bunoæ, sp. nov.
5. Tragulus sp. (said to occur).
6. Sciurus memellus. sp nov.
7. Scinrus abbottii, sp. nov.
8. Mus tambelanicus, sp. nov

Birds.*

1. Gracula javanica.
2. Eulabes javanicus.
3. Calornis chalybeus.
4. Hypothymis azurea.
5. Hirundo javanica.
6. Motacilla melanope.
7. Halcyon chloris.
8. Anthrococeros convexus.
9. Cypselus sp.
10. Osmotreron bicincta.
11. Carpophaga ænea.
12. Myristicivora bicolor.
13. Chalcophaps indica.
14. Calænas nicobarica.
15. Turtur tigrinus.
16. Esacus magnirostris.
17. Totanus hypoleucus.
18. T. calidris.
19. Lepterodius sacer.

The Rocky Islets.

Eleven miles in seven hours is not good sailing but it was afternoon when we landed on the Rocky Islets—the Pulo Mandariki of the Malays. They consist of two small barren islets and a rock. The sea is steep to all round and the schooner lay on and off with a kedge anchor hanging down while we care-

* It is interesting to note that no birds smaller than the fly catcher have effected a lodgement on the Tambelan group.

fully humoured the swell and jumped ashore on the larger of the two, which is northernmost. The central islet which is next in size is much more broken and is a wild confusion of little peaks and precipices.

Climbing to the top of our islet (134 feet) we found that quartz predominated in its formation, which presented an exceedingly rough surface where grew here and there only the scantiest tufts of coarse grass. Two or three dead bushes crowned the summit and everywhere the ground was fouled with the guano of sea-birds that use the rocks as a breeding place.

The air was full of squalling, squawking, croaking gulls and among the crevices of the island's surface we discovered numbers of nestlings, and a few eggs all addled. The birds were of two kinds:—a black noddy with grey head (*Anous stolidus*) and a tern (*Sterna* sp.) with black head and wings, grey back and grey-white breast. The remaining fauna included fishing-eagles, crabs and a solitary bee. The mid-day sun, shining down on the bare rocks, made the heat, combined with the scent of the birds, overpowering and we soon left, having knocked over sufficient specimens for the collection in a very few minutes.

Saddle Island.

Instead of proceeding straight to the Anambas we stopped for a night and morning at Pulo Kayu Ara, a little island about half a mile long covered with jungle and thus contrasting strongly with the place we had just left. It is nearly 400 feet high and is formed of two round hills having a dip between that make together a contour from which it has gained its English name.

The feet of the hills were fringed with black rocks but between lay a delightful little beach inhabited by a pair of white-collared kingfishers, on which we landed and found the laying places and tracks of turtles: the sea, of wonderful limpidity invited to a bath. The only birds seen in the forest were fruit pigeons and glossy starlings,—the only terrestrial mammal a squirrel (*Sciurus klossii*), a small blue-bellied member of the *notatus* group. The trees bore considerable quantities of fruit,

particularly noticeable being wild nutmegs and mangosteens, the last of which seemed to form the principal food of the squirrels. To complete the tale of our acquisitions were the small fruit bat (*P. lepidus*) previously taken in the Tambelans, some geckoes and two or three tree-snails.

Waiting until the tide turned in one favour we left in the afternoon, bound for the Anambas, a hundred miles away. Until sunset next evening the wind held light but then with a series of squalls coming up from astern we made from six to seven knots an hour, the breeze constantly shifting a point and back and compelling us to make continual gybes. Late at night we entered the channel between Pulos Peling and Riabu and dropped anchor close to the former.

The Anambas Islands.

On the morning of the 17th it was evident that we were fortunate to have anchored when we did; for dead ahead, just a hundred yards away, an abrupt bit of coral reef on which the schooner could have piled up very awkwardly, lay five or six feet beneath the surface.

Pulo Peling, which we worked for a day, is only a small island without inhabitants where clearings were just being commenced; we saw no mammals except many monkeys, but got a little blue brown flycatcher (*Cyornis tickelli*) with reddish breast for the first time on the cruise.

Riabu, which we next prospected, is much larger, being high and about six miles in length. It possesses a very good bay affording excellent harbourage in the S. W. monsoon as it is only open between N. and W. As we rowed along the shore we shot a large "baiawak" from the boat and then landing found the country very rocky and densely covered with forest. Our best catch was a squirrel—the only one seen—a pale and rather small form of *Sciurus notatus*. It has been named *anambensis* and occurs on most of the islands of the Anambas group but the Riabu specimen differs from the others in having the audital bullæ markedly smaller.

At daylight on the 19th there was scarcely a breath of wind and after getting up anchor we nearly drifted on to the reef

through which we had so nearly come to grief before, but missing it with the rudder by a bare yard we soon afterwards got a fair breeze and, running past eight or ten small islands, made Terempa, which is the chief kampong of the Anambas, by 2 p. m.

The Anambas Islands are situated in lat. 3°N., long. 106 E. and extend over an area 65 geographical miles long N. and S. and 55 miles wide. They practically form two groups of which, though the western includes the larger island, the other is greater in area. All the islands are hilly, covered with forest, and afford numerous bays and channels where safe anchorage may be found in spite of the coral reefs that occur everywhere. Although the population is mainly confined to the larger islands, Malays are thinly scattered over most of the rest and there are Chinese Settlements in either group.

Siantan.

Terempa lies in a little bay on the north coast of Siantan which is the largest of the easterly Anambas, having probably an area of about 20,000 acres: it is densely covered with heavy forest, is very hilly and rises 1855 feet.

The kampong is a thriving little place with a Chinese cemetery, twenty or thirty Chinese shops with galvanised iron roofs and a good proportion of its population Chinese. A small steamer the "Banka" calls once or twice a month and yet it is against these islands that the dear old China Seas Directory (3rd edition) still contains the antediluvian warning that "it is dangerous to land without due precaution, for the Malays who reside on them may probably massacre or make slaves of strangers if they perceive a convenient opportunity." *A propos* of this sort of thing I remember once asking a Danish sailor whom I met on the other side of Sumatra whether he used the English Admiralty publications for these seas, but the skipper of that very old-fashioned little barque the "Hans of Fano" shook his head and replied that he always consulted certain continental sailing directions as our own were far too obsolete and scrappy.

Terempa is built along the head of the bay and has a small saltwater creek opening out behind it. As one faces it from seaward an orderly street of Chinese stores with the opium-farmer's place and a Chinese school lie to the left with a few

Malay houses at the far end. In the centre is the Dato's house —a wooden building in civilised style; a large house belonging to the Sultan of Linga and then stretching away on the right the houses of the bulk of the Malays: behind the flat on which the village is built, hills covered with jungle and coco palms rise steeply in a half circle, the whole having a very pretty effect which, however, is quite matched by the view presented from behind the town from whence looking down the long slope of the hill one sees the roofs of the houses, the semi-circular bay with boats lying at anchor, and then across a strip of water the forested hills that rise opposite.

A mile and more to the north of Siantan lie the two fairly large islands of Mobur and Mata with a channel about a mile wide between them. Between Mata and Siantan runs a very pretty strait which although obstructed by many islets and shoals at its eastern end, has deep water in the west where Terempa Bay is situated. Not only in the latter itself can a vessel lie in deep water sheltered from all winds, but beyond the point forming its eastern shore is another bay where a ship can anchor in 10–15 fathoms near the beach, entirely land-locked. Better harbours on a small scale could not be wished for and wood and water are close at hand.

The Dato of Terempa was in an advanced state of consumption and in spite of possessing a new and rather showy house lived in a second more modest dwelling. He showed us specimens of black iron ore of which large quantities were said to occur in the hill behind the village.

We could get various supplies here, thanks to the presence of the Chinese; extremely good coconuts* were plentiful and water was at hand in a large pool on the beach. The only practicable shooting ground near at hand was mostly covered with small scrubby jungle in which we shot squirrels and a number of fairly common birds and trapped plenty of rats. I met with

*This group of islands would appear to be a convenient place for obtaining seed nuts to form a coco-palm plantation. The Malays always maintain, and apparently with some show of reason, that island nuts are far superior to those of the mainland. Some of the Anambas nuts are very good, in fact, almost equal those of the Nicobars: though small, they are extremely sweet and the deposit of flesh is very thick.

bees in this place and was put out of action for a day or two in consequence, for while chopping at a liana that crossed the path I disturbed a swarm that were clinging to it a little to one side. They were about me in an instant and though by retreating to the sea at an unaccustomed pace I shook off the majority, nevertheless those that had secured a hold made things sufficiently painful and my right hand and arm were so swollen that for a time I could do nothing with them.

The canoes of these islands were very similar to those of the Tambelans; they differed principally in having a much higher stem and stern and were shallower, lighter and narrower, with much less beam forward than aft, and they were propelled with a double-bladed paddle. The sampan used by the Chinese was of a very bulky model with an elongated and upward pointing prow: it sailed under a battened dipping-lug.

Having been told by a son of the Sultan of Linga who was staying in the village, of a large waterfall on the east side of Siantan we set out at sunrise one morning to visit it in the whale-boat. The wind was dead ahead and we had to pull all the way—about eight miles—but the result was well worth the labour. The way lay right up the channel between Siantan and Mata, then a short distance down the east coast and finally an approach by a passage through mangroves that enabled us to bring the boat to the very foot of the falls themselves. Bordered by jungle these fell in a series of cascades down a bare strip of rock about 400 feet high. There were twelve or thirteen falls in all and their chief charm lay in their variety—broad ribbons of foamy water slithering over smooth faces of rock, long threads dropping uninterruptedly from a height, and series of little cascades tumbling down flights of stone steps, while here and there in between were delightful cool-looking pools, seeming so inviting after our hot row that we feet compelled to have a swim, following the example of the fish that had somehow found their way there.

The raja had agreed to accompany us but was late in setting out, though he arrived before we left and we both started together to sail back, as this time the wind was fair. We were not long in company however, for the other boat—curiously, built in Singapore in the same yard as our own—a little larger

and with more sail soon left us behind and we reached home badly beaten.

The days between August 24th and September 5th were passed in visiting the northern island but on the latter date we sailed round Siantan and the islands extending from its south-east extremity since the channel on the north was untraversable, drifting on a reef on the way in a calm but easily getting off by the use of a kedge anchor, and in the evening putting in at Telok Ayer Bini, a bay on the sonth coast partially protected by an island at the entrance.

The shores rose very steeply and were uncleared except in one or two places where the people of a house there had made gardens and planted hill rice. It was hard work climbing about the slopes which were rendered excessively slippery by rain that continued incessantly throughtout our stay. A stream with two arms ran into the head of the bay and up one we rowed until stopped by a small cascade, while the other was merely an almost dry bed of granite boulders.

The wretched weather made specimens scarce and after three or four unprofitable days we sailed on our final visit to Terempa. Four more days were spent here working fresh ground and making fairly good collections of mammals and birds and then we left for Pulo Telaga to the westward.

Mobur.

The 24th of August was the first day of our stay at Mobur Island, about 5 miles to the northward of Siantan. Like all the Anambas it is hilly with a broken surface covered with forest, and on the south it is cut into by a narrow gulf with an islet at the entrance; a notable feature of the western group is the number of these inlets and narrow channels that occur. Good as the harbour was with depths of 12 or more fathoms we passed up the strait separating Mobur from the larger Mata and anchored in a big bay on the north side, landlocked for more than three quarters of its perimeter. Four or five miles seawards we could perceive the Tokong Belauer, a remarkable white rock bearing at a distance a most extraordinary resemblance to a modern battleship. We found coco palm and banana plantations on the island but very few inhabitants, for the people

are mainly confined to Terempa and only isolated settlers occur elsewhere.

One afternoon we rowed to a little island in the bay called Langor. It was only about 100 feet high and consisted of sand and rocks covered with scrub and a few coco palms. Everywhere the ground was strewn with pigeon's feathers and by waiting we found that large flocks of the orange-breasted pigeon (*Osmotreron bicincta*) came off at sunset from surrounding islands and used this spot as a roosting place in company with smaller numbers of glossy starlings and nutmeg pigeons. The whirring noise made by the wings of the flocks as they flew round and round the island, disturbed by our shots, was very great and continued until we departed with bags stuffed with birds that appeared later in a most delicious stew.

Kelong, Manguan and Tobing.

We next sailed round the north end of Mata and anchored between it and Pulo Kelong, a narrow island about 5 miles long in a N. and S. direction and less than a mile wide : the ground sloped upward to a ridge 600–700 feet high and every where the soil and jungle were very poor. Most of the channel dividing Kelong from Mata is filled with sand banks and coral, dry at low tide. Fishing-stakes had been set up here and there by the Malays but to us the place proved a good ground for the common shore birds of this region and we also collected a number of beautiful starfish while our crew hunted for trepang and chopped tridacnas out of the coral. Other animal life was scarce and we soon moved southward to Pulo Manguan, a small island shaped like a dumb-bell, flat and swampy in the centre; but doing no better there, anchored the schooner off Tobing, an islet near the eastern entrance of the Siantan channel, and from thence again visited the waterfall, and next day, previous to sailing for the south of Siantan, rowed to Terempa and back for our mails.

Telaga.

The second stay at Terempa concluding on the 13th of September we made for Jimaja, the chief of the westerly Anambas, first however after a few hours sail stopping about mid-way, at a group of small islands of which Telaga is chief. This is a

norrow hog-backed island about 5 miles long N. and S. with a picturesque peak rising 1740 feet near its northern end. We spent a couple of days here and on the neighbouring island of Midai finding the forest fairly open except for patches of rattans and a prickly holly-like shrub. Only one village of three or four houses was seen. The coconuts seemed much troubled with squirrels and the people made use of an ingenious trap set on a long bamboo leading from the jungle to the palm trunks.

Jimaja.

On the 16th we made sail at daybreak and rounded the southern end of Telaga. The wind was ahead but we did most of the seventeen miles, which is the distance between that island and Jimaja, in one board and then working short tacks got close to the entrance of Kwala Maras Bay on the east coast by nightfall. After that the wind fell light and the tide carried us away to the northward so we let go the anchor in 10 fathoms about three-quarters of a mile from shore and next morning after a couple of hours beating got into the bay. A line of rocks extends above water from the north shore and beyond them on the other side is a coral reef: we found a good berth between the two, well protected from all but easterly winds.

Jimaja is the largest of the Anambas with an area of perhaps 30,000 acres. It is of an irregular Y-shape about 14 miles N. and S. and 9 miles wide. The contour is very uneven and there are many peaks between 700 feet and 1530 feet, the greatest elevation attained in Gunong Tujoh. The irregularity of the coast line has resulted in many bays, the largest being in the north and in the south-east, but Telok Kwala in the centre of the east coast, although smaller than these is the most important as having the greatest population and being the port of call of the steamer. Its shores rise steeply to heights of 1000 feet in places free from forest, but beyond the head where a river embouches is some flat swampy land overgrown with mangroves.

The kampong lies on the north shore and consists of thirty to forty houses, a small mosque, the Dato's house and the buildings of the opium-farmer—shop, godowns, etc., surrounded by a stockade 8-10 feet high closely built of small saplings from whence ran a small jetty.

The Dato's was a well built house, the largest in the place, with a flag staff in front. We were given the rarely used chairs brought out, as always, from somewhere in the roof and seated on these awaited the Dato who was making himself presentable. He was a rather big man with an Irish countenance and wore a "baju tangan kanching" having a ridiculous resemblance to the obsolete night shirt, and a purple smoking cap whose large black tassel persisted in lying in his right eye. There were only a few people in the audience and after the Dato had stumbled through the Sultan's letter and the scholar of the party recorded our visit in the brown-paper-covered archives of Jimaja, conversation took a zoological turn and we were told also of two deep lakes with waterfalls that existed up in the hills of the interior, the description being such as to give one an idea of something impressive.

We collected first on the south side of the bay with no great result; the ground was very steep and difficult and the forest small having evidently been cleared at some former period. However, a new species of rat—*Mus flaviventer*—was obtained and we came across parrots (*Paleornis longicauda*) for the first time. Every day flocks crossed the bay and passed near the summit of some steep rocks where I several times lay hid in the vain hope that they might stop. It was interesting to note how the parrots' call as they flew by always drew a loud response from all the small birds roosting in the bushes.

On the other side of the bay we found a good path running for some distance through a former mangrove swamp now planted with coconuts, and afterwards up hill amongst most beautiful jungle. It crossed two small streams of perfectly clear water one running among granite boulders and the other, about a foot deep, in a smooth sandy bed. Toward midday nothing was more pleasant after five or six hours' tramping in the forest than to find a round stone for pillow and recline full-length in the flowing water of the latter until thoroughly refreshed by its coolness. But beside providing pleasure of this sort we also obtained good specimens along its banks.

Our third collecting ground was along the river falling into the head of the bay. At first this was bordered by broad growths of tall mangrove, but after a mile or so where the current

began to make itself felt these ceased and the vegetation became more varied with interminglings of nipahs, palms, and fruits trees. Onward from here the stream—the Sungei Maras—runs up the centre of a winding valley with a narrow strip of flat land at the bottom and steeply rising sides. At the head of navigation—and in fact when the tide was low we had to wade with our dinghy for some distance, though all the way the stream was broad enough to use oars—was a village of eight or ten houses and a mosque, one or two of the former being of large size and well built of panels of carved wood, though now old.

In the valley we got specimens of the parrots at last as they fed in the fruit trees bordering the river, and also a lovely little two-toed kingfisher (*Ceyx rufidorsa*) with coral red beak and feet, yellow breast and brick red head and back that were tinged with a beautiful glossy lilac: the best of the bag however were specimens of a big squirrel (*Ratufa anambæ* sp. nov.) black above with tawny yellow cheeks and underparts. It weighs about 3¼lbs with a total length of 33 inches of which head and body are 15 inches: thus, contrary to the general rule, it is an insular race characterised by increase of size. In these China Sea islands it is found that when a species of mammal occurs in a solitary island, however small that may be in area, it is confined to that island alone, but when a species is present on an island of a group it will generally be obtained throughout the group. In the case, however, of the *Ratufa* of Jimaja this is not so; it was neither reported nor did we find it ourselves on any other of the Anambas.

On the 25th we set out early in the morning with the intention of seeing what truth there was in the report given us of the "telaga" in the centre of the island. The first stage was to the village up river—Kampong Ayer Maras—where the Penghulu provided us with a guide. While waiting for the latter we inspected a small waterfall about 20 feet high at the back of the village. It was not much to look at however as there was very little water in it at the time. We were then told that there were two series of lakes, so voted for the larger set and when the guide arrived started him off accordingly.

The path traversed sago swamps for the greater part of the way and was very muddy; then passed through a small kampong surrounded by fruit trees and soon after that through a stream

where a sago-making apparatus was erected, next came thickets of dense scrub followed by another sago plant where a number of men were at work. Now the track degenerated into a muddy ditch knee deep for the most part and after crossing several brooks we came to the bank of a small river with a clean sandy bed. When we had waded upward for some distance the bed became rocky and we then soon reached the "lakes." These were disappointing being merely large rocky basins in the river bed about 60 feet long and 30 feet wide and, as we found by diving, 17 or 18 feet deep. They were connected by a fall and there was a second above the upper pool both some 30 or 40 feet high. The water was perfectly clear and the whole very pretty, rock and water being shaded and hedged in by dense jungle, nevertheless the actual state of affairs was not quite the phenomenon it had been painted by our informants.

We found the steamer in the bay when we got back and her serang came off with a message from the commander that we had stolen his anchorage! As however we had been there some time and the other was still under steam we returned word that we felt no inclination to move; thereupon the steamer's master obstinately took up a berth a few yard off until he swung with the tide when, our main-boom end doing considerable damage to his bridge dodger, he was persuaded to seek a more convenient anchorage.

Both in the Tambelans and in Siantan we had made efforts to get one of the canoes of the place without avail, people did not want to sell or would not be ready in time. Here as a last chance one of the built up kind was to be had for $40, though graceful dugouts on exactly the same lines were just half that while rough models could be purchased for as little as $3. One canoe, a good example of the type—was brought alongside with the sail lightly rolled up and bound round and round with every conceivable cord; undoing this tangle of course showed the cotton to be mildewed and full of holes and the chagrined vendor was sent off for another. There was further trouble in concluding the purchase as the islanders would not accept either Dutch coin or Singapore notes and we had run completely out of Straits money. Happily a couple of Tringanu men visiting the island in a small prau were willing to change our notes on condition that

we invested in sarongs from their trade-stock. Having with the assistance of these men—who contrasted greatly with the islanders in many ways—brought the canoe business to an end we left Jimaja on September 28th and sailing round the south of the island reached Singapore on October 8th via Tiuman where we spent a few days.

The principal result of our visit to the Anambas lay in the first record of the animals and birds found in them, an outcome of our investigations being also the description of many new insular species. So far as is represented by the collections the mammal fauna of these and of the other islands visited consists of local forms of the widely distributed and characteristic Malayan types. Each island and group of islands has its representative of the common genera and species; but in scarcely an instance is an insular race identical with that occurring on another island, unless of the same group, or on the mainland.

Mammals of the Anambas.

Macacus pumilus.
Nyctecebus tardigradis.
Emballonura anambensis, sp. nov.
Rhinolophus minutus, sp. nov.
R. rouxii?
Tupaia chrysomella, sp. nov.
Paradoxurus, sp. (reported).
Tragulus, 2 sp. (reported).
Sciurus anambensis, sp. nov.
S. tenuis.
Funambulus castaneus, sp. nov.
Ratufa anambæ, sp. nov.
Mus siantanicus, sp. nov.
M. strepitans, sp. nov.
M. anambæ, sp. nov.
M. flaviventer, sp. nov.

Birds.

The birds obtained were all common peninsular forms and are enumerated below.

Malacopterum magnirostra.

Anuropsis sp.
Mixornis gularis.
Ægithina viridissima.
Pycnonotus simplex.
Iole sp.
Dissemurus platurus.
Orthotomus atrigularis.
Lanius cristatus.
Eulabes javanensis.
Calornis chalybeus.
Hypothymis azurea.
Cyornis tickelli.
Cittocincla macrura.
Munia semistrata.
Hirundo gutteralis.
H. javanica.
Motacilla melanope.
Anthothreptes rhodolæma.
Æthopyga siparaja.
Æ. hasselti.
Dicæum trigonostigma.
Halcyon bengalensis.
H. chloris.
Ceyx rufidorsa.
Cypselus subfurcatus.
Collocalia fransica.
Macropteryx longipennis.
M. comata.
Rhamphococcyx erythrognathous.
Graculus sumatrensis.
Palæornis longicauda.
Loriculus galgulus.
Spizaëtus or Spilornis sp. (observed).
Haliäetus leucogaster.
Osmotreron bicincta.
Carphophaga ænea.
Myristicivora bicolor.
Calænas nicobarica.
Chalcophaps indica.

Charadrius fulvus.
Ægialitis sp.
Esacus magnirostris.
Totanus calidris.
T. hypoleucus.
Strepsilas interpres.
Tringa hypoleuca.
Fregata aquila (observed).
Anous stolidus.
Sterna bergii.
S. media.
Lepterodius sacer.
Buteroides javanicus.

Literature.

China Sea Directory Vol II.

Mammals collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott in the region of the Indragiri River, Sumatra, by Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., Proceedings of The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, March, 1902.

Mammals collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott on Islands in the South China Sea, by Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., Proceedings of the Washington Academy of Sciences, August, 1900.